

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/601,768

Attorney Docket No. Q76015

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please find replacement drawings for Figures 7-9, labeling the Figures as --Prior Art--.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets, Figures 7-9 (3 sheets)

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-16 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants have canceled claim 12 in this Amendment, and incorporated its allowable features into independent claim 1.

Claims 1-9 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hancock et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,764,037). Applicants note that this reference was previously cited in the August 16, 2004 Office Action as a publication (2003/0178519) before the '037 patent issued. Nonetheless, the Examiner has rejected the claims, again based on Hancock et al., specifically referring to shielding member 330 having a portion sliding in groove 370. Solely to advance prosecution of particular exemplary embodiments of the present invention, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the allowable features of claim 12. Accordingly, claim 12 has been canceled. Since the Examiner has indicated that claim 12 includes patentable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 distinguishes from Hancock et al. In particular, the groove of the present invention in which the shielding member slides includes varying widths depending on the location of the groove with respect to the opening. This feature is not suggested by the "groove" 370 of Hancock et al. Nor, is it suggested by Morita et al. (discussed below).

Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Morita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,349,982). Morita et al. is commonly owned by Fuji Photo Film, Inc., and also discloses a magnetic tape cartridge. The Examiner cites shielding member 3, guide grooves 1c and 1d having at least one portion formed by walls projecting from the inner surface of the upper and lower plates, leader member 4, and concave portion 205 in the rejection.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants note that the term "locus" as recited and used in the present specification represents a set of points that form a curve. Indeed, this is the common geometrical definition for the term "locus." In Morita et al., however, guide grooves 1c and 1d do not curve. Rather, consistent with the use of a slide door such as in the Morita et al. tape cartridge, slide door 3 runs along the guide grooves 1c and 1d in a straight path. Further, there is no disclosure in Morita et al. that discloses guide grooves 1c and 1d having varying widths.

Drawings:

The drawings have been objected to based on Figures 7-9 not including a "Prior Art" label. Applicants have amended these Figures, labeling them as --Prior Art--.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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